[24th December 1953

As regards the expenditure incurred after 15th March 1952, the attention of the Hon. Member is invited to answer to Question No. 272, given on the floor of the House on 2nd April 1953."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Members of local bodies are surcharged for spending any amount illegally. Will the Government follow a similar policy with reference to Hon. Ministers, though the amount may be small? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The difference is : in the case of local bodies, the amount is illegally spent, but here it was not illegally spent."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" സർ, അവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനംകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്നു പണനഷ്ടമല്ലാതെ വല്ല ബെനിഫിററും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവോ ? "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" அதிகப்படியான பணச்செலவே தவிர, அபிவிருத்திக்கான எந்த வழியும் இல்லை. வேறு எந்த வகையான பலனாவது உண்டா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is no doubt that a certain amount of expenditure was incurred. But in view of the impending Bill, the operation was stopped."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The sections upon which this expenditure was incurred came into force only on 15th March 1952, and the Hon. Minister admitted that at any rate a small amount was spent before that date. May I know whether this expenditure was not illegal? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Before the Act came into force, an expenditure of less than Rs. 1,000 was incurred for some preliminary work. The expenditure incurred after the Act came into force was about Rs. 2½ lakhs."

9–50 a.m. SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, are the Government aware that a considerable part of the expenditure was wasted on account of the fact that officers not conversant with Malayalam or Malabar land tenure were imported into the district for this purpose, and because of their unfamiliarity quite a lot of time and money was wasted? Would the Government at least not repeat this expenditure on the rent courts to come? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I would not call it a waste of money. It has solved the unemployment problem to some extent, as the hon. Member knows."

Grant of certain benefits to road maistries.

* 240 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what is the result of the consideration by the Government of the representations received from the road maistries under Highways to give them certain benefits as mentioned in the Hon. Public Works Minister's

reply to clause (*b*) of starred question No. 354 at page 942 of the Official Report of the Madras Legislative Assembly Debates, dated 6th April 1953?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It was decided that the question should be considered by the respective Governments after the partition of the State. The question is now being considered by this Government."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" எப்போது இது சம்பந்தமான பிரச்னையை பரிசீலனை செய்யப்படும்? நம்முடைய நாட்டில் வாழ்கின்ற ரோடு மேஸ்திரிகளின் கவலை எப்போது நீங்கும்?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have stated that this Government are actively considering the question."

The Chettuvai bridge.

* 241 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to shift the proposed Chettuvai bridge, Ponnani taluk, Malabar, to Enamavu or any other place; and

(*b*) when the Government propose to start construction of the bridge?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) The detailed plan and estimate for the bridge at Chettuvai are under preparation by the Chief Engineer (Highways). The work will be sanctioned for execution after the estimate for the work is approved by Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, we know that powerful influences have been working behind to get the site changed. Will the Government give a categorical answer that the site will not be changed, and that the decision is final?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The hon. Member may rest assured that Government would not be influenced by any bad influences. They have already decided to construct the bridge at Chettuvai."

SRI M. CHADAYAN :—" സർ, ഈ പാലത്തിന്ന പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈററി ആറു ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക തന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ? എന്തുകൊണ്ട് ഇതേവരെ പ്രവൃത്തി ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്ന ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് ദയവു ചെയ്തു മറുപടി പറയുമോ?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Estimates are being prepared only now, Sir."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that in case they decide to change the site, they will have to construct another bridge?"